coaches have aesthetically appealing interiors and better passenger amenities. All Rajdhani/Shatabdi services with the older design of coaches are also planned to be converted to the upgraded design.

Indian Railways have also initiated steps for improving the standards of cleaning and hygiene through intensive Mechanised cleaning during maintenance in the depots & limited mechanized cleaning attention to identified trains at nominated "Clean Train Stations" during the scheduled halt.

An On Board Housekeeping Scheme has also been envisaged for important long distance trains, where frequent cleaning and hygiene attention shall be provided in the coaches on run.

Difficulties in direct movement of goods from India to Bangladesh

2134. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the difficulties in direct movement of goods from any place in our country to any place in Bangladesh, without trans-shipment, on the railway network and how are they proposed to be overcome?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): Transshipment in case of a part of India- Bangladesh goods traffic is resorted to because Bangladesh Railway predominantly accepts only vacuum-braked BCX rakes. On the other hand, Indian Railways fleet of BCX wagons is extremely limited because Indian Railways have moved on to air-braked BCN wagons. The limited fleet of BCX wagons can not service India-Bangladesh traffic from the hinterland over very long leads. Therefore, to meet the heavy demand, traffic from far off stations are carried in BCN wagons to the transshipment points situated close to the India-Bangladesh border. Goods are then transshipped into BCX wagons which are moved in circuits with shorter leads between transshipment points and destinations in Bangladesh.

Transshipment of goods can be avoided if Bangladesh Railway freely accepts air- braked stock from Indian Railways.

Agitation for passenger amenities at Shyamacharanpur

†2135. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there was an agitation in the month of last May demanding passenger amenities at Shyamacharanpur passenger halt in Dhenkanal district in Orissa under Eastern Coastal Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry has received any memorandum for the complete development of this passenger waiting room; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Dhenkanal Nagrik Manch intimated Khurda Road Division for a proposed rail roko on 14.05.2008

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.